

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A communications method for use in a wireless network of devices, comprising:

transmitting, from a first device, data in a first time slot to each of at least two receiving devices in the wireless network; and

~~receiving, at one or more other devices, the data transmitted from the first device; and~~  
~~either~~

transmitting, ~~from each of the receiving devices, either~~ a first acknowledgement state in a second time slot after the first time slot, ~~[[;]] or transmitting~~ a second acknowledgement state in a third time slot after the second time slot,

wherein the first and second acknowledgement states are either a positive acknowledge and a negative acknowledge, respectively, or a negative acknowledge and a positive acknowledge, respectively,

the second time slot is a slot for all devices in the wireless network for transmitting the first acknowledgement state,

the third time slot is a slot for all devices in the wireless network for transmitting the second acknowledgement state, and

each device in the wireless network monitors time slots during which they are not transmitting to determine an overall acknowledgement state of the wireless network.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) A communications method according to claim [[2]] 1,  
wherein the first time slot is variable in length and the second and third time slots are fixed in length.
4. (Currently Amended) A communications method according to claim [[2]] 1,  
wherein the positive acknowledge comprises a transmission of a specific coded value containing sufficient redundancy to allow it to be recovered in the presence of received errors, and  
the negative acknowledge comprises a transmission of a specific coded value containing sufficient redundancy to allow it to be recovered in the presence of received errors.
5. (Currently Amended) A radio communication system, comprising a transceiver/transmitter and at least two transceiver/receivers,  
wherein the transceiver/transmitter transmits data in a first time slot to each of the transceiver/receivers,  
upon receipt of the data, each of the transceiver/receivers transmit either a first acknowledgement state in a second time slot, after the first time slot, or a second acknowledgement state in a third time slot after the second time slot, and  
the first and second acknowledgement states are either a positive acknowledge and a negative acknowledge, respectively, or a negative acknowledge and a positive acknowledge, respectively,

the second time slot is a slot for all of the transceiver/receivers in the radio communication system for transmitting the first acknowledgement state,  
the third time slot is a slot for all of the transceiver/receivers in the radio communication system for transmitting the second acknowledgment state, and  
each of the transceiver/receivers and the transceiver/transmitter monitor a transmission medium during time slots in which they are not transmitting to determine an overall acknowledgement state of the radio communication system.

6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) A radio communication system according to claim [[6]] 5,  
wherein the first time slot is variable in length and the second and third time slots are fixed in length.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently Amended) A radio communication system according to claim [[8]] 5,  
wherein upon each of the transceiver/receivers detecting a correctly coded transmission in the negative acknowledge time slot, each of the transceiver/receivers discards the data previously received in the first time slot.
10. (Previously Presented) A radio communication system according to claim 9,  
wherein upon detecting a correctly coded transmission in the negative acknowledge time

slot, the transceiver/transmitter retransmits the data to each of the transceiver/receivers.

11. (Currently Amended) A transceiver/receiver for use in a radio communication system comprising at least one transceiver/transmitter and at least one other transceiver/receiver, wherein, upon receiving a data packet in a first time slot from at least one of the transceiver/transmitters, the transceiver/receiver either transmits a first acknowledgement state in a second time slot, after the first time slot, or transmits a second acknowledgement state in a third time slot, after the second time slot, and

the first and second acknowledgement states are either a positive acknowledge and a negative acknowledge, respectively, or a negative acknowledge and a positive acknowledge, respectively,

the second time slot is a slot for each of the transceiver/receivers in the radio communication system for transmitting the first acknowledgement state,

the third time slot is a slot for each of the transceiver/receivers in the radio communication system for transmitting the second acknowledgement state, and

the transceiver/receiver monitors a communication medium during a time slot in which the transceiver/receiver is not transmitting to determine an overall acknowledgment state of the radio communication system.

12. (Previously Presented) A transceiver/receiver according to claim 11, wherein the transceiver/receiver further receives the first acknowledgement state in the second time slot from at least one of the other transceiver/receivers in the communication system or receives the second

acknowledgement state in the third time slot from at least one of the other transceiver/receivers in the communication system.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A transceiver/receiver according to claim 11, wherein upon receiving a negative acknowledge from at least one of the other transceiver/receivers, the transceiver/receiver discards the data packet received in the first time slot.

16. (Previously Presented) A transceiver/receiver according to claim 15, wherein the discarded data packet is replaced with data retransmitted by the transceiver/transmitter.

17. (Currently Amended) A transceiver/transmitter for use in a radio communication system comprising at least ~~one transceiver/receiver~~ two transceiver/receivers,

wherein the transceiver/transmitter transmits a data packet in a first time slot to each at ~~least one~~ of the transceiver/receivers and receives from each of the transceiver/receivers ~~one or both~~ of a first acknowledgement state in a second time slot after the first time slot, or from at least one of the transceiver/receivers and a second acknowledgement state in a third time slot after the second time slot ~~from at least one of the transceiver/receivers~~, and

the first and second acknowledgement states are either a positive acknowledge and a negative acknowledge, respectively, and a negative acknowledge and a positive acknowledge, respectively,

the second time slot is a slot for all transceiver/receivers in the radio communication system for transmitting the first acknowledgement state,

the third time slot is a slot for all transceiver/receivers in the radio communication system for transmitting the second acknowledgement state, and

the transceiver/transmitter monitors a communication medium during the second and third time slots to determine an overall acknowledgement state of the radio communication system.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A transceiver/transmitter according to claim [[19]] 17,

wherein upon receiving a negative acknowledge, the transceiver/transmitter retransmits the data to the at least ~~one of the two~~ transceiver/receivers.

21. (Previously Presented) In a wireless network including a transceiver/transmitter and at least two transceiver/receivers, a method of disseminating data to be shared with the at least two transceiver/receivers, the method comprising:

transmitting from the transceiver/transmitter, the data to the at least two transceiver/receivers;

upon unsuccessfully receiving the data by at least one of the at least two transceiver/receivers, transmitting negative acknowledge data to indicate unsuccessful receipt of the data;

retransmitting the data from the transceiver/transmitter; and

replacing the data received by each of the at least two transceiver/receivers with the retransmitted data in each of the at least two transceiver/receivers.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21,

wherein the negative acknowledge data is received by the transceiver/transmitter and least one transceiver/receiver other than a transceiver/receiver which transmitted the negative acknowledge data.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22,

wherein upon receiving the negative acknowledge, transceiver/receivers that successfully received the data from the transceiver/transmitter discard the data received from the transceiver/transmitter before receiving the retransmitted data.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21,

wherein the data is transmitted in a first time slot, the negative acknowledge is transmitted in a second time slot, and the data is retransmitted in a third time slot.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23,

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wherein upon each successful receipt of data by one of the transceiver/receivers, the respective transceiver/receiver transmits a positive acknowledge.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25,

wherein the positive acknowledge is transmitted in an additional time slot between the first time slot and the second time slot.

27-30. (Cancelled)